

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05
DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00
SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 L-03
/103 W

-----120993 050740Z /11

R 050330Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6831
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1706

MANILA FOR USADB

PARIS FOR DEA

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, CA, AF
SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF ANTI-OPIUM RESTRICTIONS FOR CANADIAN
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY KABUL HAS EXPLAINED TO A CANADIAN DIPLOMAT
THE NEED FOR ANTI-OPIUM RESTRICTIONS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
PROJECTS WHICH INCREASE AGRICULTURAL ACREAGE IN AFGHANISTAN --
OR IMPROVE EXISTING FARMLANDS. END SUMMARY.

2. ROBERT G. HATHEWAY, CANADIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR (RESIDENT
AT ISLAMABAD), RECENTLY VISITED THE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS WITH
EMBASSY OFFICERS INQUIRIES OTTAWA HAD SENT TO HIS EMBASSY
CONCERNING THE DESIRABILITY OF REQUIRING ANTI-OPIUM AGREEMENTS
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WITH THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FOR FUTURE CANADIAN ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN. (COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT
THESE INQUIRIES WERE PROMPTED BY US-CANADIAN DISCUSSIONS IN
WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA ABOUT THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN AFGHAN-
ISTAN.)

3. HATHEWAY REPORTED FRANKLY THAT THE INITIAL REACTION OF HIS

AMBASSADOR (W. FRANK STONE) IS TO WANT TO SHY AWAY FROM SUCH RESTRICTIONS BECAUSE THE AFGHANS WOULD REGARD THEM AS A VIOLATION OF CANADA'S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF PROVIDING AID WITHOUT ANY "STRINGS" ATTACHED.

4. THE U.S. OFFICERS RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. IS VERY GRATIFIED BY CANADA'S GENEROUS AND INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN THE AFGHAN AID FIELD, BECAUSE IT IS BOTH ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL AND POLITICALLY USEFUL FOR AFGHANISTAN TO HAVE THIS ADDITIONAL TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF WESTERN INTEREST. THEY EXPLAINED THAT THE USG ALSO UNDERSTANDS AND RESPECTS THE AFGHAN SENSITIVITY OVER "POLITICAL STRINGS" BEING ATTACHED TO AID AGREEMENTS, BUT THAT THE CASE OF ANTI-OPIMUM RESTRICTIONS WAS DIFFERENT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, ITSELF, HAS BEEN ELECTING TO UNDERTAKE THIS COMMITMENT AS A RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, CONCERNED ABOUT THE WORLDWIDE ADDICTION PROBLEM. SUCH RESTRICTIONS, HE WAS TOLD, APPLY ONLY TO THOSE PROJECTS WHERE ADDITIONAL AGRICULTURAL ACREAGE IS BEING CREATED -- OR WHERE EXISTING FARMLANDS ARE BEING IMPROVED (E.G., THROUGH THE SUPPLY OF FERTILIZERS). OBSERVING THAT AMERICAN TAXPAYERS WOULD OBJECT TO SEEING THEIR TAXES MISUSED TO PRODUCE ILLICIT NARCOTICS, THE US OFFICERS OPINED THT CANADIAN TAXPAYERS WOULD PROBABLY SHARE THIS REACTION.

5. HATHEWAY THANKED THE EMBASSY OFFICERS FOR THE PRE-SENTATION AND ASKED FOR EXAMPLES OF THE CURRENT US-AFGHAN
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ANTI-OPIMUM AGREEMENTS. HE WAS PROVIDED WITH COPIES OF A FEW SIDELETTERS.
AMSTUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DRUG CONTROL, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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